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Curios and Relics

Vehicles

Coach

Rode to First Inauguration

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Ellis R. Martin
22374 Garrison Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan

September 10, 1941

Dr. Louis Warren
Lincoln Life Assurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

While reading Sandburg's WAR YEARS I was reminded of a snapshot I took years ago of a coach in which Lincoln rode on the way to his first inauguration, and on finding the negative, I had a print made which you may be interested in, and which I here enclose.

The coach belonged, I believe, to Col. James Buckalew, member of a Southern family that came to the little Jersey village sometime after 1800. Col. Buckalew had money invested in the Delaware and Raritan canal, also, my mother said, in the old Camden and Amboy Railway, one of the first in the country. He was an important and wealthy man, and I suppose his coach was made available on account of his connection with transportation facilities as well as his personal importance.

The family dwindled as years went on (though there are still representatives living) and the coach was stored in one of the huge brick barns around which I played as a child, and there forgotten. Some years ago the barns were sold and torn down, when the coach came to light. On the occasion when I took the snapshot, it had been used to transport Civil

Ellis R. Martin

22374 Garrison Avenue

Dearborn, Michigan

War veterans in a Memorial Day parade. The coach is still in existence, and, I think, still used annually on Memorial Day.

Not far from the town of Jamesburg is the ancient burying ground where Lincoln's great-aunt Deborah lies buried.

I have enjoyed Lincoln Lore almost since it was started. At that time I was visiting at the home of Paige Yarnell in Fort Wayne and had the opportunity of seeing the Lincoln material at the Lincoln Life building, where I first heard of Lincoln Lore. My file is complete except for a few numbers among the first 50.

During the past summer I picked up in Philadelphia a biography of Lincoln by Frank Crosby, a member of the Philadelphia bar. It was apparently printed in October, 1865. Does this have any particular value?

Yours truly,

Ellis R. Martin



Vehicle

September 12, 1941

Mr. Ellis R. Martin
22374 Garrison Ave.
Dearborn, Michigan

My dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your interesting letter with reference to the old Lincoln coach and also the picture attached.

We are pleased indeed to learn of this interesting incident and have the information for our files.

We regret to say that the Crosby life of Lincoln is quite well known and has no particular value.

We are pleased that you are enjoying Lincoln Lore and are happy to hear that you have so many of the back numbers.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

